

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6086

BILL NUMBER: SB 19

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 10, 2006

BILL AMENDED: Jan 9, 2006

SUBJECT: Covenant Marriage.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Kruse

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill defines "covenant marriage". It provides that a couple may designate a covenant marriage when applying for a marriage license or after marriage. The bill requires that a marriage license must indicate whether the marriage is a covenant marriage. It also establishes the procedure for declaring a covenant marriage. The bill also requires the State Department of Health to: (1) maintain records of covenant marriage declarations; and (2) develop an informational pamphlet regarding covenant marriage. It further provides limited grounds for legal separation or dissolution of a covenant marriage.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The State Department of Health (SDOH) has identified some minimal costs to develop a new form for circuit courts to use to implement the new classification of covenant marriage and in creating the pamphlet providing information on covenant marriage required by the bill. Both of these provisions can be implemented within the existing level of the SDOH budget and resources. The Department also estimates that this bill would require approximately \$18,095 to implement in the first year: \$11,000 for one-time systems revisions and \$7,095 for the first year and each year thereafter for additional printing and postage expenditures.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The county circuit court clerks may incur some additional expenses related to filing covenant marriage designations for existing marriages.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Department of Health.

Local Agencies Affected: Circuit courts; Circuit court clerks.

Information Sources: State Department of Health.

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